

94 25. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said originating network includes a component for providing return voice output in response to said second return signals.

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 and claims 2-7, 9-10 and 24 dependent thereon, independent claim 11 and claims 12-17, 19-20 and 25 dependent thereon, and independent claim 22 and claim 23 dependent thereon, are now being prosecuted in this application. Each of these claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the prior art.

Section 4 on page 3 of the Office Action indicated that prior claims 8 and 18 contain allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend on a rejected base claim. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of prior claim 8, which has been cancelled, and independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the features of prior claim 18, which has been cancelled. It is therefore believed that amended claims 1 and 11, and the claims dependent thereon, are allowable in accordance with Section 4 on page 3 of the Office Action.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to define method steps corresponding to the functions performed by the structure of the apparatus that is defined by claim 11 as amended. It is therefore believed that amended claim 22 is allowable in accordance with Section 4 on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 23-25 have been added to describe the additional feature wherein a return voice output is provided in response to the second return signals of independent claims 22, 1 and 11, respectively. This feature is represented by item 14 in Fig. 6, items 14 and 16 in Fig. 5, and items 9 and 11 in Fig. 7 of the drawings, and is described in

corresponding portions of the specification. It is therefore believed that claims 23-25 are allowable along with the respective claims upon which they are dependent.

As noted in Section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the application was filed with informal drawings. Attached to this Amendment are formal drawings, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner approve the attached drawings and that they be substituted for the informal drawings filed with the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that each of the claims now in the application defines an invention that is novel and unobvious over the prior art, and that these claims are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims as now presented are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Townsend M. Belser, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

TOWNSEND M. BELSER, Jr.
Registration No. 22,956
Pollock, Vande Sande & Priddy, R.L.L.P.
1990 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036-3425
Telephone: 202-331-7111